

or taking a strong interest one in the other. This is doubtless possible; however, not only was no hint of aggression ever seen, but also the entire behaviour of *urticae* was irresistibly suggestive of a male paying court to a female — under the influence of a sex-pheromone, yet in this case not of his own species. One thinks of the occasional inter-specific matings reported from time to time; was this, I wonder, the prelude to such a union? Passing the spot on my way back, the butterflies had gone. Probably a lepidopterist of long experience could cite similar observations.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Parascotia fuliginaria* L. (Lep.: Noctuidae), Waved Black, in Shropshire**

A single diminutive male of this species was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Ludlow, Shropshire (Site No. 488, O.S. grid ref. SO 514 743) on 17.ix.1989. This is the first record of *P. fuliginaria* in the county and, due to the late date of capture, may represent a partial second emergence following the long hot summer of 1989. The species is usually univoltine, flying in June and July.

It is probable that *P. fuliginaria* has merely been overlooked in Shropshire as it is known to occur in the neighbouring Worcestershire portion of the Wyre Forest (C. Plant, pers. comm.).— ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology and Nematology, AFRC Inst. Arable Crops Research, Rothamsted Exp. Stn., Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

**Wallace's line?**

Whilst entomologising recently in Sarawak, I happened across an old copy of Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim*; a book which I had not seen before but always intended to read "one day". It turned out to be an appropriate book to read under the circumstances and I was struck by Conrad's description of the trader/entomologist Stein, obviously based on the English entomologist/explorer Russell Wallace. Having compared passages with passages in Wallace's *The Malay Archipelago*, it was also pretty obvious that Conrad had "pinched" some of Wallace's well known passages — particularly relating to the capture of *Ornithoptera croceus*; perhaps not verbatim but certainly altered in such a manner as to leave no doubt as to the original author.

In his description of the capture of *croceus* Wallace says, "The beauty and brilliancy of this insect are indescribable, and none but a naturalist can understand the intense excitement I experienced when at length I captured it". Stein remarks, on the capture of a large butterfly whose description fits *croceus* very well ". . . and I had a very big emotion. You don't know what it is like to capture such a rare specimen. You can't know".

Wallace continues, "On taking it out of my net and opening the glorious wings, my heart began to beat violently, the blood rushed to my head, and I felt much more like fainting than I have done when in apprehension of